

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yoshinori NAKAYAMA  
Application No.: To be Assigned  
Filing Date: March 28, 2001  
Title: SCHEDULE RETRIEVAL METHOD FOR CONTROLLING  
SCHEDULES AND SCHEDULE SERVER APPARATUS WITH  
MULTISTAGEOUS IDLE-TIME RETRIEVAL MEANS  
Art Unit: 2764  
Examiner: N. Nguyen

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 28, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter thereto the following Preliminary Amendment.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

**Page 1, following the title,** please insert the following paragraph:

**-- Cross-Reference to Related Application**

This application is a Continuation of Application Number 09/379,104, filed August 23, 1999, which is a Continuation of Application Number 08/931,655 filed September 16, 1997, which is incorporated herein by reference. --;

**line 11,** insert -- the number -- after “reduce” and change “extremely”  
to -- much --;

line 21, insert -- the number -- after “reduce”;

line 22, change “extremely” to -- much --;

Page 6, line 9, change “for” to -- by --;

line 10, change “for” to -- by --;

line 20, insert -- 101 and 102 -- after “apparatuses”;

Page 7, line 25, delete “a” (both occurrences);

line 27, delete “the” (first occurrence), and change “in the specific example of” to -- as shown in --;

Page 8, line 11, insert -- as shown in FIG. 4 -- after “401”;

line 17, delete “the”;

line 18, delete “the”;

line 26, delete “a” at the first occurrence;

Page 9, line 1, delete “the”;

line 2, delete “the”;

line 3, delete “a”;

line 10, delete “the”; and

Page 13, line 6, change “extremely” to -- significantly --.

# **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add claims 6-7, as follows:

--6. A schedule management system, comprising:

a schedule server which stores schedules of participants and schedules of equipments reserved by ones of said participants in different groups; and

4 a plurality of remote client devices operatively connected to said schedule  
5 server, which allow client users to input schedules of said participants and request an idle  
6 time retrieval from said schedule server,

7 wherein said schedule server comprises a communication controller which  
8 provides a visual display of said idle time retrieval at selected ones of said client devices.

1 7. A schedule management system according to claim 6, wherein said selected  
2 client device indicates result of said idle time retrieval.--

### REMARKS

Claims 6-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer while claims 6-7 have been newly added in accordance with current Office policy, to further and alternatively define Applicants' disclosed invention and to assist the Examiner to expedite compact prosecution of the instant application. Favorable consideration of these claims and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

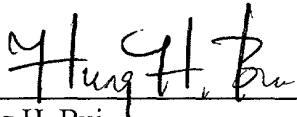
In view of the foregoing additions and remarks, all claims are deemed in condition for examination. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at (703) 312-6600.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. No fee is included for this Preliminary Amendment since all claims were paid for previously. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.35669CX2).

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Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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